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Informational Report Series

Cessna 172 Airworthiness Directives

172IR-101 10 March 2008

Airworthiness Directives, frequently referred to as ADs, are an issue that every aircraft operator must deal with. These are mandates from the controlling agency (the FAA in the United States) that specify known safety deficiencies and the required actions to mitigate them. They can apply to an aircraft model, a propeller or engine, or a control or appliance used. In the U.S., ADs are regulated under FAR Part 39. Advisory Circular 39-7C (available for download from the Library at 172guide.com) explains them in detail.

Airworthiness Directives may require action as benign as a simple one-time inspection or as severe as a major airframe or engine modification. As expensive as ADs can potentially be, they provide a significant service to pilots and operators by helping to identify serious problems and their solutions. **Compliance with ADs is mandatory.**

Registered owners of aircraft will automatically receive via mail new ADs that may apply. Since an AD may reference a variety of models and/or specific groupings of serial numbers, it is crucial that each is given immediate and prompt attention. If it does not apply, make a note of it and place the document in your airplane's folder. If it does, make sure that you fully comply within the timeframe specified.

The Cessna 172 has always been a relatively well designed and constructed airplane. Thus, it has not been the target of a huge number of ADs. Nonetheless, ADs for 172s do exist and records of compliance must be kept. Although AD compliance searches are supposed to be done by the licensed mechanics making annual inspections, frequently this turns out to be little more than a pencil-whipped endorsement. Every pilot should make it a habit of confirming that all applicable ADs for any airplane he or she flies has been complied with.

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58-8-02: Heater inspection on some 1958 models

59-10-03: Replace/relocate flasher switch on some early models

68-17-04: Test and repair if necessary the stall warning system

68-19-05: Utility category (Franklin GA-335B engines only)



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- 70-10-06: Oil pressure line in I and K models
- 71-18-01: Provide correct fuel tank capacity (SN 17248735-17256512)
- 71-22-02: Nose gear fork after 1000 hours
- 72-03-03 R3: Flap actuator jack screw every 100 hours
- 72-07-02: Fuel selector valve (SN 28000-17258855)
- 73-17-01: Placard auxiliary fuel pump if one exists
- 73-23-07: Wing attachment fittings (SN 17261664-172261808)
- 73-23-01: Piston rings on Lycoming O-320 engines
- 74-04-01: Inspect aft bulkhead (SN 17260759-17261495)
- 74-06-02: Muffler if Avcon STC
- 74-08-01: Inspect autopilot actuators on 300/400/800 series units
- 74-26-09: Bendix magnetos
- 75-08-09: Oil pump shaft and impeller on Lycoming O-320 engines
- 76-04-03: 300/400/800 series autopilots
- 76-21-06: Oil cooler in M and N models
- 77-02-09: Flap actuator ball nut assembly (SN 17267789-17268239)
- 77-07-07: Oil dipstick tube on Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines
- 77-12-08: Test ground power and electrical system regarding the propeller
- 77-16-01: McCauley propellers (some serial numbers)
- 77-20-07: Valve tappets and rocker arm studs Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines
- 78-12-08: Oil pump gear on Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines
- 78-12-09: Crankshaft on Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines



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- 79-08-03: Cigarette lighter wiring in several ranges of serial numbers
- 79-10-03: Engine mounting bolts in N model
- 79-10-14: Vented fuel cap
- 79-13-8: Replace Airborne dry vacuum pump, if installed after 5/15/79
- 79-18-06: Replace LiSO₂ ELT batteries
- 79-18-06: Bendix magnetos as per their Service Bulletin
- 80-04-03: Exhaust valve spring seats and hydraulic lifters Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines
- 80-04-08: Map light cover
- 80-06-03: Flap cable clamp on N models
- 80-06-04: Test Slick magnetos
- 80-14-07: Exhaust valve springs and seats on Lycoming O-320-H2AD engines
- 80-17-14: Bendix magnetos as per their Service Bulletin
- 80-25-07: Steward Warner oil cooler
- 81-05-01: Fuel quantity gauge and markings
- 81-15-03: Brackett engine air filter on all 172 through the M model
- 81-16-09: Elevator control system on N models (SN 71035-74523)
- 81-18-04: Oil pump impeller and shaft on Lycoming O-320 engines
- 82-07-02: Crankcase breather and seal
- 82-11-05: Bendix magnetos as per their Service Bulletin
- 82-13-01: Engine inspections on engines with S-1200 series Bendix magnetos
- 82-20-01: Bendix impulse couplings prior to 300 hours of use



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83-10-03: Control wheel M through P models

83-17-06: Ailerons on some Robertson STOL conversions

83-22-06: Aileron hinges in N and P models

86-24-07: Engine controls attachments

87-20-03 R2: Seat rails (repetitive inspection and replacement)

97-01-13: Fuel, oil, and hydraulic hoses

99-27-02: Fuel selector valves or valve cams shipped between 12/98 and 05/99

2000-06-01: Fuel strainer standpipe

2001-23-03: Door post light switch

2004-19-01: Shoulder harnesses

2008-02-18: BRS parachute systems